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# Security Council

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## Letter dated 13 July 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the report on the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Mexico, in April 2009 (see annex).

The document was prepared under the responsibility of my delegation, following consultations with other members of the Security Council. I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Claude **Heller**
Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations

09-40316 (E) 220709

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## Annex to the letter dated 13 July 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

## Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Mexico (April 2009)

### Introduction

During the presidency of the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations, Ambassador Claude Heller, the Security Council undertook an extensive programme of work. Throughout the month, Mexico contributed to the reaching of consensus and the taking of concerted action by the Council in making important decisions.

In the month of April 2009, 22 agenda items were considered by the Council, concerning Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Middle East.

A total of 35 meetings were held, of which 15 were informal consultations, 17 were formal meetings and two took the innovative form of "informal interactive dialogues". A further meeting was an Arria-formula meeting concerning children and armed conflict, attended by participants from civil society and non-governmental organizations with an interest in that issue.

Three open debates were held, on the situation in Haiti, on the maintenance of international peace and security: mediation and settlement of disputes, and on children and armed conflict, the last of which was presided over by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mexico, Patricia Espinosa Cantellano.

The Security Council adopted 17 decisions, comprising two resolutions on the extension of the mandates of peacekeeping operations, seven presidential statements, three statements to the press and five media appearances by the President of the Council, in which he delivered messages approved by the Council members.

### I. Africa

#### Côte d'Ivoire

On 28 April, in a public meeting, the Council heard a report from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Côte d'Ivoire and Head of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), Choi Young-jin. The Special Representative presented the twentieth progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (S/2009/196). He stressed that UNOCI was focusing on advancing the electoral process and that, while progress towards the holding of the elections was slow, the main actors would count on great political will to that end.

Following the meeting, the Council held informal consultations at which a brief report on the work of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1572 (2004) was presented by Mexico in its capacity as Chairman of that Committee, followed by an exchange of views among the Council members.

**Djibouti and Eritrea**

During consultations on 7 April, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, B. Lynn Pascoe, stated that Eritrea had refused to recognize the border dispute and had categorically rejected Security Council resolution 1862 (2009). He added that the Secretary-General would maintain contact with the parties with a view to finding a way of moving the issue forward.

Council members expressed disapproval of the failure of Eritrea to comply with resolution 1862 (2009) and concern over that country's unwillingness to establish dialogue or accept the good offices of the Secretary-General. They encouraged the United Nations Secretariat to continue its efforts towards rapprochement and mediation and requested the Under-Secretary-General to keep the Council informed of developments in the situation.

On 16 April, during informal consultations, the Permanent Representative of Mexico, Claude Heller, reported back to the Council members on the meeting he had held as President of the Security Council with the Permanent Representative of Eritrea following the agreement reached on 7 April. He also informed the Council about a meeting with the Permanent Representative of Djibouti. The Council members stressed that they would review this issue in a few weeks, based on an updated briefing on the efforts of the Secretariat to engage Eritrea.

**Guinea-Bissau**

On 8 April, at a public meeting, the Council heard a report from the Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNOGBIS), Joseph Mutaboba. The Representative presented the report of the Secretary-General on developments in Guinea-Bissau and on the activities of UNOGBIS (S/2009/169). He stated that the Government authorities had established a commission of inquiry to look into the assassination of the President of the Republic and the Chief of the General Staff, and said that it was essential to comply with the terms of the Constitution in order to advance the democratic process. Following the meeting, the Council held informal consultations in which members exchanged views.

On 9 April, the President read out a statement on behalf of the Council (S/PRST/2009/6), in which the Council noted the stipulation made by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) with respect to the need to deploy military and police contingents to ensure the protection of the republican institutions, the authorities and the electoral process, and invited ECOWAS to work in coordination with the Government of Guinea-Bissau.

**Democratic Republic of the Congo**

On 9 April, at a public meeting, the Council heard a report from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Alan Doss. The Special Representative presented the twenty-seventh report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) (S/2009/160), stressing that there had been a significant improvement in the situation, especially following the signature of an agreement between the Government and the Congrès national pour la défense du peuple (CNDP). He stated that MONUC needed more troops and equipment in order

to carry out its mandate pursuant to Security Council resolution 1856 (2008), and reported on the progress made in operations against the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda (FDLR), which had carried out attacks against the civilian population, as had the Lord's Resistance Army.

Following the meeting, the Council held informal consultations in which the members exchanged views. At the end of the meeting, they approved a statement to the press. In the statement, the Council welcomed the agreement reached between the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the CNDP; gave its support to operations jointly planned and conducted by the Forces armées de la République démocratique du Congo and MONUC against FDLR; expressed its concern over continued violations of human rights in the country; and stressed the importance of reforming the security sector.

**Madagascar**

During informal consultations on 7 April, the Council heard a report on the situation in Madagascar presented by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs. The Council members supported the efforts of the Secretary-General and the African Union to resolve the crisis and appealed for constitutional order to be restored at the earliest possible time.

**Western Sahara**

On 22 April, the Council held a closed meeting with troop-contributing countries to the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO). During the meeting, the Director of the Asia and Middle East Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Wolfgang Weisbrod-Weber, provided the Council and troop-contributing countries with information.

On the same day, in informal consultations, the Council heard a briefing by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Edmond Mulet, and the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara, Ambassador Christopher Ross, based on the Report of the Secretary-General on the situation concerning Western Sahara (S/2009/200 and Corr.1).

On 30 April, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1871 (2009), extending the mandate of MINURSO for one year. The resolution includes new elements relative to the human dimension of the conflict.

**Somalia**

On 9 April, the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia, Ambassador Claude Heller, briefed the Council on the Committee's work in accordance with Security Council resolution 1844 (2008), in which the Council requested the Committee to report at least every 120 days on its work.

**Sudan**

On 23 April, the Council held a closed meeting with the countries contributing troops to the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS), during which it heard a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Sudan and Head of UNMIS, Ashraf Jehangir Qazi.

Also on 23 April, in informal consultations, the Special Representative presented the report of the Secretary-General on the Sudan (S/2009/211).

On 30 April, the Council adopted, by consensus, resolution 1870 (2009), by which it extended the mandate of UNMIS for a period of one year.

### Chad and the Central African Republic

On 24 April, at a public meeting, the Council heard a briefing by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, during which he presented the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) (S/2009/199). The Assistant Secretary-General highlighted the lack of progress in procuring the required equipment for MINURCAT, the political developments in Chad and the status of relations between Chad and the Sudan.

Following the meeting, the Council held informal consultations, during which the members expressed their views regarding the situation on the ground. The Council members welcomed the transfer of authority from EUFOR to MINURCAT and agreed that improved relations between Chad and the Sudan were crucial for the stabilization of the region and the full deployment of MINURCAT.

### Darfur

On 27 April, at a public meeting, the Council heard a briefing by the Joint African Union-United Nations Special Representative for Darfur and Head of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), Rodolphe Adada, who presented the report of the Secretary-General on the deployment of UNAMID (S/2009/201). He indicated that the current conflict in Darfur was considered a low-intensity conflict and outlined the main threats to stability in the Sudan. The briefing was followed by informal consultations, during which the members exchanged views. Some members objected to the characterization of the conflict as being "low intensity".

## II. Latin America and the Caribbean

### Haiti

On 6 April, the Council held an open debate to consider the question concerning Haiti and the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) (S/2009/129).

The Council heard a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of MINUSTAH, Hédi Annabi. Following the briefing and the Council debate, the Council heard statements by the President of the Economic and Social Council and representatives of the Organization of American States, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the World Food Programme and the United Nations Development Programme.

The Council heard statements by the Permanent Representative of Uruguay on behalf of the Group of Friends of Haiti, and 12 other delegations. It then heard a statement by the Permanent Representative of Haiti, who thanked Mexico for having convened an open debate on the question concerning Haiti.

Following the meeting, the President delivered a statement (S/PRST/2009/4) in which the Council welcomed the progress achieved in the five critical areas for the consolidation of Haiti's stability; noted with concern the challenges in the area of social and economic development; reiterated the need for security to be accompanied by social and economic development as a way for Haiti to achieve lasting stability; and reiterated its strong support for MINUSTAH and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for their efforts to improve stability and governance in Haiti.

## III. Asia

### Democratic People's Republic of Korea

On 5 April, the Council held informal consultations to discuss the missile launch by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Following the consultations, the President informed the press that the Council had met to discuss that critical situation and hear members' concerns.

On 11 April, the Council held informal consultations to consider a draft presidential statement, following which the President briefed the press.

On 13 April, at a public meeting held in connection with the Council's consideration of the item "Non-proliferation/Democratic People's Republic of Korea", the President delivered a statement on behalf of the Council (S/PRST/2009/7). The statement condemned the launch on 5 April 2009 by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which is in contravention of Security Council resolution 1718 (2006); reiterated that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea must comply fully with its obligations under resolution 1718 (2006); demanded that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea not conduct any further launch; agreed to adjust the measures imposed by paragraph 8 of resolution 1718 (2006) through the designation of entities and goods involved in the launch; and called for the early resumption of the Six-Party Talks.

On 24 April, the President of the Council received a letter from the Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006) informing him of the decision of the Committee regarding the designation of entities and goods.

### Sri Lanka

On 22 April, the Council held an "informal interactive dialogue" to consider the humanitarian situation in Sri Lanka, with the participation of the Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka.

The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General to Sri Lanka, Vijay Nambiar, briefed the Council on the progress achieved during his visit to Sri Lanka, stressing that the purpose of his mission was to propose to the Government of Sri Lanka that personnel from the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross be sent to Sri Lanka to help provide humanitarian assistance to the victims of the conflict and internally displaced persons.

Following the meeting, the President made remarks to the press, expressing the Council's concern at the situation in Sri Lanka.

In informal consultations on 24 April, under "Other matters", the Council considered the humanitarian situation in Sri Lanka, following which the President of the Council made remarks to the press.

On 30 April, the Council held another informal interactive dialogue, at which the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, John Holmes, briefed the Council regarding his visit to Sri Lanka from 25 to 27 April. The Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka also participated in the dialogue. Following the meeting, the President made remarks to the press outlining the position of the Council members.

In the remarks, the President expressed Security Council members' concern at the humanitarian situation in north-east Sri Lanka; their condemnation of the use by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) of civilians as human shields; their calls for LTTE to lay down its arms, renounce terrorism and allow civilians trapped in the conflict zone to be evacuated; their support for the Secretary-General's proposal to send a humanitarian mission to the conflict zone and their urge for the Government of Sri Lanka to extend its support to that mission; and their calls for the parties to respect international humanitarian law.

### Fiji

On 20 April, in informal consultations, the Council heard a briefing on the situation in Fiji by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs.

The Under-Secretary-General highlighted the constitutional crisis that had arisen following the interim Government's declaration of a state of emergency on 10 April; the suspension of the Constitution; the postponement of parliamentary elections until 2014; and the dissolution of the courts.

Following the meeting, the President made remarks to the press in which he expressed the Council members' deep concern regarding the situation in Fiji, including the abrogation of the Constitution; called for the restoration of democracy; and reiterated the Council members' support for the Secretary-General's efforts to resolve the situation.

## IV. Middle East

### Iraq

On 16 April, the Council held informal consultations on the activities of the International Advisory and Monitoring Board for Iraq and the Development Fund for Iraq. The Controller, Jun Yamasaki, presented a report on the matter.

### Iraq/Kuwait

On 16 April, the Council held informal consultations to consider the issue of Kuwaiti nationals and Kuwaiti property missing since the Gulf war of 1990/91 and their repatriation to Kuwait, pursuant to Council resolutions 1284 (1999) and 1859 (2008). The High-level Coordinator, Ambassador Gennady Tarasov, introduced the semi-annual report of the Secretary-General on the item. The members agreed that the President of the Security Council should deliver a statement to the press.

### Iraq

On 25 April, the President read out a statement to the press, condemning in the strongest terms the terrorist attacks in Baghdad and Diyala on 23 and 24 April. At the same time, the Council reaffirmed its support for the Government of Iraq and reiterated its own determination to combat all forms of terrorism.

### Situation in the Middle East

On 20 April, the Council heard a briefing on the situation in the Middle East by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, who reported that very little progress had been made on the key elements of resolution 1860 (2009): the commitment of the parties to a durable and sustainable ceasefire; opening the crossings for humanitarian access and materials for recovery; and intra-Palestinian reconciliation. He conveyed the Secretary-General's expectation that the Middle East peace process would resume, with the aim of achieving an independent and viable Palestinian State living side by side in peace with a secure Israel, and a comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace as envisaged in Security Council resolutions. He stated that the situation in Gaza and southern Israel remained fragile in the absence of a proper ceasefire regime, and noted that 30 rockets and mortars had been fired by Palestinian militants at southern Israel during this period. He also highlighted Egyptian efforts to combat the continued arms smuggling across the Gaza border, and informed the Council that settlement activity continued in the West Bank and East Jerusalem during the reporting period, and must be frozen. After the meeting, the Council held informal consultations. Members pointed to the need to achieve a stable ceasefire, implement the provisions of Council resolutions 1850 (2008) and 1860 (2009) and open Gaza's border crossings to allow the entry of more humanitarian aid and essential goods and materials.

## V. Europe

### Kosovo

On 16 April, the Council held informal consultations and heard a briefing by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, on the latest events relating to the situation in Kosovo and the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo.

### Cyprus

On 30 April, the Council held informal consultations to consider the situation in Cyprus.

The Council was briefed by the Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Cyprus, Alexander Downer, who asserted that in general terms the negotiations between the Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot parties had been satisfactory, but emphasized that the final settlement of the conflict would have to be approved by both communities, through separate and simultaneous referendums.

Following the informal consultations, the Council held a public meeting at which it authorized the President to make a statement on behalf of the Council (S/PRST/2009/10), in which the Council welcomed the progress made by the Greek

Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders and reiterated its support for the Secretary-General's good offices mission.

## VI. Thematic issues

### Mediation and settlement of disputes

On 21 April, the Council held an open debate on the item entitled "Maintenance of international peace and security: mediation and settlement of disputes", and on the report of the Secretary-General on enhancing mediation and its support activities (S/2009/189).

The Council was briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, who spoke of the establishment of the Mediation Support Unit and a standby team of expert mediators, the importance of working with Member States, regional organizations and non-governmental organizations in efforts to mediate; and support activities for mediators in the planning and management of peace processes.

Following the briefing, the 15 Council members and representatives of nine other delegations made statements. At the resumed meeting, the Council heard statements from 19 more delegations.

At the end of the debate, the President made a statement on behalf of the Council (S/PRST/2009/8), in which the Council recognized the importance of mediation, to be launched at the earliest possible phase of a conflict; emphasized the importance of the actions taken by the Secretary-General in promoting mediation; and recalled the important contribution of Member States, regional and subregional organizations, civil society and other stakeholders to the peaceful settlement of disputes.

### Children and armed conflict

On 29 April, the Council held an open debate, presided by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mexico, Patricia Espinosa Cantellano, to consider the report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict (A/63/785-S/2009/158).

The Council heard a statement by the Secretary-General and the introduction to the Secretary-General's report by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, Radhika Coomaraswamy, who emphasized the need for a direct link between the Security Council's Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict and the sanctions committees, and reiterated the report's recommendation that broader criteria should be used for the inclusion of groups in the annexes to the reports of the Secretary-General.

After the introduction of the report, the Council heard statements by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Alain Le Roy, the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund, Ann Veneman, and a former child soldier from Uganda, Grace Akallo.

The debate continued with statements by the 15 Council members and representatives of 58 other delegations, who expressed concern over the continuing recruitment and use of children in armed conflict in violation of international humanitarian law, the killing and maiming of children, rape and other sexual

violence against children, their abduction, the denial of access by children to humanitarian aid, and attacks on schools.

At the end of the debate, the President made a statement on behalf of the Council (S/PRST/2009/9), in which the Council indicated its intention to take action within three months on new criteria for including in the annexes to the Secretary-General's reports those parties that commit acts against children that are prohibited under international law; the need for additional support for the Working Group, particularly with regard to the follow-up to its recommendations; and the need to end impunity and bring violators to justice through international justice mechanisms, where applicable.